



RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

Letters of Faith

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*“My Bride is beautiful to Me!
You don't see her beauty because you don't see her the same way I do.
Where you see her ugliness, I see her immaturity.
Through My eyes of love and faith, I see My Bride's increasing glory!
That which is beautiful to you in nature shows you
what is beautiful to Me in the spiritual.”*

Dearly Beloved,

The Lord is telling us in this prophetic word that He wants us to behold the beauty of His Bride the same way that He does. That means we are going to have to look at her with different eyes: with the eyes of agape love, instead of the eyes of a County Fair 4-H judge appraising her good and unsatisfactory qualities and abilities.

He is also telling us how we will see beauty in the Bride where we haven't before: by applying the principles of observing the beauty we already appreciate and admire in nature—in His creation.

There is beauty in contrast and variety. Much of the beauty of our beloved farm, Eagles Nest, was in the incredible contrasts of color, contour, and composition of land, water, and foliage. Even in the depths of winter, there was a russet hue to the weeds and grasses in the open pasture areas that complemented the sprinkling of snow. The golden color of the late afternoon sun brought out the residual tones in some of the withered oak leaves, reminding us of their recent autumnal russet glory. The deep green of the white pines we had planted stood out sharply against winter's leafless trees in the woods. In the spring, they provided a deep anchor to the different shades of brilliant greens in the willows, maples, walnuts, river birches, hickories, sassafras, and the always last to bless us with leaves, the different oaks that outlined the fields, bordered the streams, and packed the mature forests.

Under a deep blanket of snow, the beauty of that place was dramatized by the stark and almost two-dimensional contrast between the brilliant white and the somber darkness of the trees.

The view of our valley fields and creeks was enhanced by the rolling contours of the wooded hills that surrounded them. The sporadic stark outcropping of rock made the mossy banks more attractive. Constantly changing patterns of light and shadow accentuated the gullies and ravines.

We need to learn that God sees contrast and variety in the Body of Christ as beautiful too, just as we see beauty in the contrasts and variety in our natural countryside! We must constantly remind ourselves of God's Word that there is beauty in variety with unity. **“For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”** (Romans 12:4-5) If you and I were all the same, the Body of Christ would be less beautiful to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Beloved, if you can hear this as from the heart of our Heavenly Father, you will not be confused by attempts to make brothers and sisters conform to certain “acceptable” molds of “church practice and performance” that lead to controversy instead of unity in the Spirit.

An early 17th century theologian once said: *“In things necessary: unity! In things doubtful: liberty! In all things: charity!”* In those things of the faith that are really necessary, we are praying that God is

bringing us into a full unity of faith and understanding at the levels of mind and heart. But, in those things that are peripheral to His plans for the Body of Christ, we need to insist on exhibiting grace for unity of spirit in diversity of expression while we get many of the practical details straightened out to the Bridegroom's satisfaction. And, in all things, we must flow in love for one another (i.e. Charity, in this case, equals agape love), even with those who seem strange to us (or even worse, wrong), until we all come together in accordance with His understanding (as directly contrasted to yours, or to mine).

There is beauty in productiveness. Cultivated crops are beautiful in their abundance and weedless order, and yet there is also a wild kind of beauty in the woodland's abandon to weeds and bushes and brambles that provide the seeds and berries for wildlife and our breakfast jams.

It is the abundance of sheep and cows that make the lush pastures in England, Scotland, and Wales so incredibly alluring and restful. This plentiful combination of fertility and life make lovely pastoral places of scenic beauty and peace.

So it must be with the Bride of Christ: there must be a vibrancy of the life of Jesus in her that is not found in the world around her. There must be both food for the spirit, and food for the soul. There must also be salt for all who partake. Read Proverbs 31:10-31 to see how productive is the Bride who is pleasing to the Bridegroom.

It is the frequent lack of the manifestation of God's power and love in our church gatherings that has me constantly provoking leaders to release the beauty of the Holy Spirit's actions in their meetings—the displays of His productiveness.

There is beauty in adornment. The spring wildflowers that carpeted the woods and garnished the pastures were so abundant, so brilliant, and so varied that they took your breath away on a bright, sunny spring day. We saw in them God-created beauty hidden away from the world around us just for the sake of their beauty. We were in absolute awe over the hills of fuchsia and purple heather that we saw in full bloom in Scotland. The Word says that Solomon in all his oriental splendor was nothing compared to the lilies of Israel's fields. Yet, some who talked with us about our plans to go up into the far north of the Scottish Highlands said it was dull, barren, and uninteresting. Their eyes weren't open to the glory of God in His handiwork.

We mustn't be afraid of adornments in the Body of Christ because God is anything but dull, but I believe that we Christians—the very members that make up the Body of Christ—are to be the adornments of the Bride, not expensive stained glass or ornate manmade structures.

There is beauty in peace and serenity. There was a particular beauty in the peace and tranquility we found in some very special places at Eagles Nest Farm. That is why we always said to the saints that came for restoration, "Don't bring your radios and your portable TVs and your Walkman tape players (some of you "elders" might even remember them)! Learn to drink—in the beauty of the Godly quiet, the conversations of the birds, and the soothing sounds of the creeks and the gentle, small waterfalls ("...and His voice was like the sound of many waters." Rev. 1:15). Come to appreciate how much more beautiful the Bride is when she is at peace than when she is anxious and strident."

There is beauty in change. There is constant change in nature all around us. There is change from season to season, from week to week, and even daily if you have eyes to see it! The change in the Bride that is the most beautiful to the Lord, however, is her maturing. To become the mature Bride for whom the Lord is coming back, we must all grow into the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:13). That is going to take some major growing up for most of us! I am convinced that one of the most beautiful things in the eyes of the Lord Jesus is seeing this Godly growth in us, His Bride.

Finally, *there is beauty in fruitfulness.* There is nothing more beautiful to a parent than seeing their new baby. There is a glow of glory in the face of the mother who has just given birth. The reproducing saint is especially beautiful to the Lord! We, the Body, need to start bringing forth "babes in Christ," and nurturing them. And we who are more mature already, must continue to grow up and start letting the Holy Spirit bring forth new signs and wonders that signify the victorious power and productivity of God in the midst of His holy people.

